



HAVA NEWS

A special informational bulletin for Michigan election officials on the implementation of the Help America Vote Act of 2002

Michigan Department of State - Terri Lynn Land, Secretary of State

May 7, 2004

Polling Place Accessibility and Training Survey Released

One of the Help America Vote Act's principal objectives is to make the election process more accessible for voters who are disabled. With the new federal requirements, Michigan is committed to addressing both voting equipment and polling place accessibility. Limited funding will be available to assist cities and townships address their accessibility needs.

To gather data on Michigan's accessibility needs, a Polling Place Accessibility and Training Survey was mailed to all city and township clerks this week. A copy of the survey was also sent to all county clerks for informational purposes along with a short training survey which must be completed by the county clerk. Please watch your mail for the arrival of the materials!

All city and township clerks must forward their completed Polling Place Accessibility and Training Survey to their local county clerk's office no later than June 25, 2004. After assembling the surveys, the county clerks must forward them to the Department of State's Bureau of Elections by June 30, 2004.

To complete the survey, the city and township clerks must evaluate every building used for a polling place according to a Polling Place Accessibility Checklist. The checklist is supplied as a part of the survey packet. A separate checklist must be completed for each polling place in the clerk's city or township. In an instance where a city or township clerk determines that a polling place is not fully compliant with the accessibility standards, the local clerk must attach the checklist completed for the noncompliant polling place to the completed survey form.

All city and township clerks are encouraged to partner with local disability advocacy groups when evaluating the accessibility of their polling places. Contact information for the various disability advocacy groups organized throughout Michigan is included with the survey packet.

Please do not hesitate to contact Amy Shell of this office if you have any questions. Phone: (517) 373-2540.